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P.2/3

JUL 21 '94 11:11AM SENATOR KASSEBAUM WASHINGTON

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**United States Senate** RELEASED IN FULL  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 19, 1994

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our deep concern about the desperate humanitarian tragedy unfolding on the Rwandan-Zaire border. As you know, at least one million Rwandan refugees have crossed into Zaire in the last few days, overwhelming the few international relief organizations working in that area.

Your administration has taken some very significant steps to address this crisis, including sending Agency for International Development Administrator Brian Atwood to the region. We applaud your decision to release additional emergency relief funds and strongly support efforts to airlift food and humanitarian supplies to the Rwandan refugee camps.

We commend the French military for its humanitarian actions in Rwanda. They have saved thousands of lives, and we should continue to support their efforts. However, due to the enormity of the refugee crisis, we also believe the United States--working with France and the United Nations--must do more. Specifically, we hope you will consider:

- expanding U.S. airlifts of food, medicine, water pumps, and other supplies to the refugee camp in Goma, Zaire;
- deploying U.S. military medics to provide much-needed health and medical services for the refugees; and
- sending U.S. military logistics specialists to support humanitarian relief organizations, particularly with unloading, storing and distributing food, and with organizing the refugee camps.

We understand the reluctance to use the U.S. military in this situation. We do not see any need for U.S. military personnel to be involved in a combat situation. The U.S. military would only be used for peaceful, humanitarian purposes. Unfortunately, it is the only organization capable of responding quickly and effectively to this crisis.

The U.S. involvement would be confined to the refugee camps in Zaire. The mission would also be of limited duration and mandate--providing specific assistance to save lives until the UNHCR and the nongovernmental organizations can take control of the situation.

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Page 2

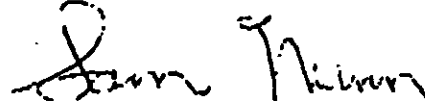
We appreciate your consideration of these suggestions and look forward to working with you to address this tragic, humanitarian catastrophe.

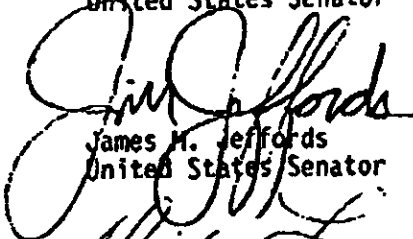
Sincerely,

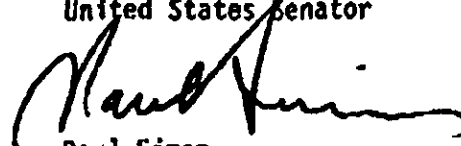
  
Nancy Landon Kassebaum  
United States Senator

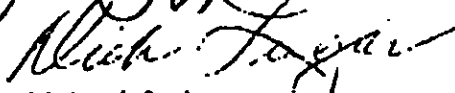
  
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